

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 495
FINAL READING

Introduced by Stuhr, 24; Baker, 44; Bohlke, 33; Brashear, 4;
Bromm, 23; Connealy, 16; Coordsen, 32; Dierks, 40;
Engel, 17; Hartnett, 45; Hudkins, 21; Jones, 43;
Kremer, 34; Matzke, 47; D. Pederson, 42;
C. Peterson, 35; Price, 26; Raikes, 25; Robak, 22;
Schellpeper, 18; Schimek, 27; Schmitt, 41;
Schrock, 38; Suttle, 10; Thompson, 14; Vrtiska, 1;
Wickersham, 49

Read first time January 15, 1999

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Education and Career
- 2 Preparation Act; to create a task force; to provide a
- 3 termination date; and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known
2 and may be cited as the Education and Career Preparation Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that technology is
4 changing the educational and training needs of employees. These
5 changes are found in all areas of employment and are directly
6 related to Nebraska remaining competitive in a global economy.
7 These changes also raise employer expectations of prospective
8 employees from all education levels, including those with a
9 baccalaureate degree. Education and career preparation are
10 critical because students must possess academic, communication, and
11 technological skills needed for employment and continued lifelong
12 learning. Therefor, there is an urgent need for quality career
13 preparation and technical education programs in the secondary
14 schools of Nebraska in order to assist students in:

15 (1) Acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for
16 successful entry into a career preparation program at a
17 postsecondary educational institution or into employment;

18 (2) Developing skills to balance the dimensions of work,
19 family, and community;

20 (3) Gaining exposure to a wide variety of careers; and

21 (4) Gaining experience in career paths through supervised
22 work-based experience.

23 Sec. 3. The purpose of the Education and Career
24 Preparation Act is to study the academic, technical, and employment
25 skills necessary for success in a career through career preparation
26 and technical education programs such as agricultural education,
27 business education, career guidance and counseling, family and
28 consumer sciences, industrial technology education, marketing

1 education, health occupations education, and diversified
2 occupations.

3 Sec. 4. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
4 is created. The task force shall consist of the members appointed
5 pursuant to section 5 of this act. The task force shall report its
6 findings and recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature and
7 the Education Committee of the Legislature on or before October 1,
8 2000.

9 Sec. 5. Members of the Education and Career Preparation
10 Task Force shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the
11 Legislative Council on or before April 15, 2000, and shall include:

12 (1) One member of the Education Committee of the
13 Legislature;

14 (2) One member of the Business and Labor Committee of the
15 Legislature;

16 (3) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

17 (4) One representative from the Governor's Policy
18 Research Office;

19 (5) One secondary teacher involved in career preparation
20 and technical education programs;

21 (6) One teacher who is a member of an association for
22 career preparation and technical education teachers;

23 (7) One representative from business;

24 (8) One representative from labor;

25 (9) The program manager for vocational education at the
26 State Department of Education;

27 (10) One representative from the State Department of
28 Education who works with student organizations in the area of

1 career preparation and technical education;

2 (11) One high school student leader involved in student
3 organizations in the area of career preparation and technical
4 education;

5 (12) One representative of an association of school
6 boards;

7 (13) One taxpayer from a Class II or III school district;

8 (14) One representative of an association of school
9 administrators;

10 (15) One taxpayer from a Class IV or V school district;

11 (16) One representative from a community college who is
12 involved in career preparation and technical training; and

13 (17) One representative of a career preparation and
14 technical education teacher education program.

15 Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their
16 actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties
17 as members of the task force as provided in sections 81-1174 to
18 81-1177. The member from the Education Committee of the
19 Legislature shall be the chairperson of the task force and shall
20 arrange for the initial and subsequent meetings. The Education
21 Committee of the Legislature, other legislative staff, and the
22 State Department of Education shall provide research and
23 administrative support for the task force. The task force may
24 retain a national consultant to assist with the study.

25 Sec. 6. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
26 shall study the following topics and make recommendations for
27 Nebraska policies and potential legislation to the Clerk of the
28 Legislature and the Education Committee of the Legislature:

1 (1) The purpose, role, and mission of career preparation
2 and technical education programs;

3 (2) The prevalence of and need for career preparation and
4 technical education programs at both the middle school and high
5 school levels;

6 (3) The funding for career preparation and technical
7 education programs, curriculum, and equipment at both the middle
8 school and high school levels;

9 (4) The availability of teachers of career preparation
10 and technical education and the status of career preparation and
11 technical teacher education programs;

12 (5) The need for career preparation and technical
13 education articulation programs in high schools and postsecondary
14 educational institutions;

15 (6) The feasibility of operating different delivery
16 systems for career preparation and technical education programs,
17 including a career preparation and technical high school or
18 schools; and

19 (7) Any other topics related to career preparation and
20 technical education as determined by the task force.

21 Sec. 7. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall
22 hold at least one public hearing in each congressional district in
23 Nebraska on the recommendations of the Education and Career
24 Preparation Task Force before December 31, 2000.

25 Sec. 8. The Education and Career Preparation Task Force
26 terminates on December 31, 2000.

27 Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
28 when passed and approved according to law.